

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, September 1, 2006*

## MPDC BEGINS ENFORCING "PROSTITUTION FREE ZONES" IN DC

In a new push to combat prostitution and prostitution-related crime in DC neighborhoods, the MPDC this week begins enforcement of a new anti-loitering law that allows police to disperse groups of two or more individuals congregating for the purpose of prostitution or prostitution-related activity within a designated "Prostitution Free Zone." Chief Ramsey this week issued declarations for the District's first two Prostitution Free Zones: in Police Service Area 101 in Northwest, beginning September 1, and in PSA 307 in Northwest, beginning September 8. The boundaries of each zone are marked by posters in the affected area and are published on the MPDC website. Both Prostitution Free Zones will last for 10 days, the maximum amount of time allowed under law. The Omnibus Public Safety Emergency Amendment Act of 2006, which Mayor Williams signed in July, authorizes the chief of police to declare "Prostitution Free Zones" in areas where the health or safety of residents is endangered by prostitution or prostitution-related offenses. While a Prostitution Free Zone is in effect, it is unlawful for a group of two or more persons to congregate on public space within that area for the purpose of engaging in prostitution or prostitution-related offenses. Persons in violation of the law first will be warned by a police officer that they are in a Prostitution Free Zone and will be directed to disperse. Failure to obey the officer's instruction could result in arrest, without a second warning. Offenders convicted under the law are subject to a fine of up to \$300, imprisonment for up to 180 days, or both.

- ① More details on the first Prostitution Free Zones are at:  
<http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/mpdc/section/2/release/9577/year/2006>
- ① Learn more about Prostitution Free Zones in DC, including details on the first two declarations at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1238,q,560857,PM,1.asp>
- ① The Prostitution Free Zone law is modeled after DC's Drug Free Zones, which the MPDC has been enforcing since 2003. Details at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1238,q,542244,mpdcNav\\_GID,1541.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1238,q,542244,mpdcNav_GID,1541.asp)

## MAYOR EXTENDS EARLIER, 10 PM CURFEW HOURS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28

The earlier, 10 pm start for DC's curfew that Mayor Williams implemented as a crime-fighting tool in late July is being extended for another 30 days, the Mayor announced this past week. That means that youth age 16 and younger need be off the street and out of public space from 10 pm until 6 am, seven days a week, unless they are accompanied by a parent or are engaged in certain exempted activities. The Enhanced Crime Prevention and Abatement Emergency Amendment Act of 2006, which the DC Council passed and the Mayor signed in July, gives the Mayor the authority to set alternative curfew hours. The Mayor previously announced that, effective July 31, the alternative, 10 pm-6 am curfew hours would be in effect. This week, the Mayor issued a Public Notice extending those alternative curfew hours through 11:59 pm on Thursday, September 28. "The earlier curfew hours that we instituted last month have been helping to protect our young people," the Mayor said. "The Chief and I heard from parents and from others who felt that the earlier curfew is working and who encouraged us to extend it. I hope that with the start of the school year, parents will continue to urge that their children participate in organized, safe activities when they are not in school." Since Chief Ramsey declared the crime emergency on July 12, MPDC officers have processed more than 2,200 curfew violators; more than 40 percent have occurred between 10 pm and 12 midnight, which is the normal start of the curfew during the summer months.

- ① See the news release at:  
<http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/mpdc/section/2/release/9560>
- ① Read the official Public Notice of the curfew hour changes at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,560486,mpdcNav\\_GID,1549,mpdcNav,1.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,560486,mpdcNav_GID,1549,mpdcNav,1.asp)
- ① Details on DC's curfew are at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547375,mpdcNav\\_GID,1549,mpdcNav,1.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547375,mpdcNav_GID,1549,mpdcNav,1.asp)

## MPDC ANNOUNCES 18 MORE CCTV CAMERAS TO HELP COMBAT CRIME IN DC NEIGHBORHOODS

The MPDC this past week began deploying 18 more Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras designed to help combat crime in DC neighborhoods. The new locations include eight in Northwest, five in Southeast, four in Northeast, and one in Southwest. Once the new cameras are operational, the MPDC will have 25 CCTV cameras to help fight crime in DC neighborhoods. Plans call for approximately four dozen neighborhood cameras to be installed by the end of September. In selecting locations for CCTV cameras, Chief Ramsey is required by law to consider calls for police service, reported crimes and other public safety indicators, as well as recommendations or requests from Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and civic or citizen associations. The cameras, which focus on public space only, are “passively monitored” by the MPDC, meaning that officers generally do not watch the camera feeds in real time. Rather, camera images are recorded and then reviewed by police if there are reports of criminal activity in the area. The use of CCTV cameras for crime-fighting purposes is permitted under the Enhanced Crime Prevention and Abatement Emergency Amendment Act of 2006, which the DC Council passed and Mayor Anthony A. Williams signed in July. The neighborhood cameras can be deployed during the 90 days in which the emergency legislation is in effect. Extending their use beyond that time would require further action by the Council.

## TWENTY-FOUR NEW OFFICERS HITTING THE STREETS OF DC

Patrols in DC neighborhoods are being boosted by the addition of 24 officers who were sworn in during graduation ceremonies Friday afternoon at the MPDC’s Maurice T. Turner Jr., Institute of Police Science in Southwest. The new officers include 21 recruits, who recently completed approximately 24 weeks of training at the Institute of Police Science training academy. In addition, the Department graduated three “lateral-hire” officers, or experienced officers who are hired from other law enforcement agencies. The current class of lateral hires includes officers from the Baltimore City Police Department, the US Capitol Police and the Indiana, Pennsylvania, Sheriff’s Department. Because they are experienced law enforcement professionals, the lateral officers complete a condensed training program that focuses on DC law and MPDC policies and procedures. All of the newly graduated officers are being assigned to neighborhood patrols in Police Service Areas (PSAs) throughout the District. Chief Ramsey told the graduates that, as police officers, they have a dual mission: to protect lives and property and to safeguard Constitutional rights. “As police officers, we have a unique and solemn responsibility to protect, not just other peoples’ material possessions. We have the responsibility to protect the very rights that define us as Americans — the right to assemble, the right to speak, the right to petition our government, the right to seek justice,” the Chief said.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Updated Crime Emergency Statistics Now Available.** Chief Ramsey declared a crime emergency on July 11, following a spike in violent crime across the District. The MPDC is now publishing both daily updates on crime reductions since the emergency declaration, as well as weekly statistics on police activity. Access these and other data at [http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543308,mpdcNav\\_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543308,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp).

**Talk with Chief Ramsey.** Chief Ramsey discusses the DC crime emergency and other public safety matters with the public during two upcoming media appearances. On Wednesday, September 6, from 4-5 pm, the Chief has his regular segment on News Channel 8’s “News Talk” program. Then on Thursday, September 7, from 9-10 am, it’s “Ask the Chief” – Chief Ramsey’s monthly discussion on Washington Post Radio (1500 AM, 107.7 FM). Viewers and listeners are invited to call in with questions for the Chief.

- ① Read the news release on the latest CCTV cameras at:

<http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/mpdc/section/2/release/9579> and <http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/mpdc/section/2/release/9562>

- ① Additional information about the MPDC’s use of CCTV, including the locations of all neighborhood-based cameras and a fact sheet on their use, can be found at:

<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/curfew>

- ① Residents interested in a CCTV camera in their neighborhood are encouraged to submit their recommendation in writing to the commander of their police district. Find out your police district at:

[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543336,mpdcNav\\_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543336,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp)

- ① For more information on becoming a police officer in the MPDC, go to:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,538009.asp>

## DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	<b>as of 9/1/06</b>
◆ 2006: 116	
◆ 2005: 128	
◆ % Change: -9.0%	
◆ Closure Rate: 48.0% (56 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	<b>week end. 8/26/06</b>
◆ Total: 1,094	
◆ Weapons: 22	
◆ Robbery: 2	
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 8	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 30	
◆ Narcotics: 200	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	<b>week end. 8/26/06</b>
◆ Total Arrests: 65	
◆ Robbery: 0	
◆ Weapons: 5	
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 2	
◆ Curfew Violators: 333	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	<b>as of 8/30/06</b>
◆ August: 230	
◆ 2006 Total: 1,616	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	<b>as of 8/29/06</b>
◆ 2006: 28	
◆ 2005: 29	
◆ % Change: -3.0%	

**Information, ideas, or comments about this service?** Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC’s Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**